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Norman Cross
Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District

during the year 1947.

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To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health V. D. BUCHANAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ed.
resigned 31st May, 1947.

H. Pattinson, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector G. F. TAYLOR, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1947)	7310
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1947	2213
Rateable Value	£30,413
Value of Penny Rate	£118

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 parishes, a number of which are situated on the extensive deposit of Oxford Clay which forms the Fletton Brickfields in which a great many inhabitants of the district find employment.

With this exception the population is solely employed in agriculture. The South ~~Western~~ ^{EASTERN} portion of the district is Fen Lands, land recovered by an extensive drainage system some fifty years ago, from what was formerly Whittlesea Mere.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Birth Rate per 1000 population	23.9
STILL BIRTHS	Rate per 1000 total births	16.9
DEATHS	Death rate per 1000 population	11.8
	Deaths from Puerperal Causes per 1000 total (live and still) births	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—		
	All infants per 1,000 live births	28.6
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.9
	Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	125.0
	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
	Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	23.9	0.41	11.8	28.6
England & Wales	20.5	0.50	12.0	41.0

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	43	43	86
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
8. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac. polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	—	—	—
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	2	1	3
15. Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	4	10
17. Diabetes	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	1	3	4
19. Heart disease	9	10	19
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	2	3
21. Bronchitis	1	—	1
22. Pneumonia	3	—	3
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	1	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	3	2	5
28. Nephritis	—	2	2
29. Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	1	—	1
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	1	2	3
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road Traffic Acc.	2	—	2
35. Other violent causes	1	2	3
36. All other causes	8	8	16

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities :**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :—**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :—**

Nursing in the district is carried on by the District Nursing Associations under the supervision of the County Council. The nurses employed carry out the general nursing in the district, and attend the majority of maternity cases.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:—**

Infant Welfare work in the Farcet area is carried out under the auspices of a voluntary body, the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association, at their clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

In addition the Hunts. County Council provide the following Clinics:—

YAXLEY.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Village Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2-30—4-30 p.m.

ELTON.

In April 1945 an Infant Welfare Centre was opened in this Village. This centre also serves the surrounding Villages. It is held in the Highgate Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2-30—4-30 p.m.

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services:—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30—12.
Eyes	.....	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	.....	High Street, Old Fletton.
Orthopaedic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Monday 2-15 p.m. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic.....		Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	.....	28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) Maternity Hospital :—

Provision is made for the reception of necessitous Maternity Cases into either, the Emergency Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park, or St. John's Hospital, Peterborough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,

Booster Station,

Yaxley, Peterborough,

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I beg to present my third annual Report in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1947.

New Housing. (a) Council.

The following houses were under construction at the end of the year :— Yaxley 8; Folksworth 2; Stibbington 2; Stilton 8; Chesterton 2; Orton Waterville 4; Elton 4; Farcet (Airey Houses) 20

Folksworth and Chesterton were almost completed, Stibbington has been standing since April owing to the failure of the Contractor. Progress elsewhere has been slow except at Farcet where very rapid work has been carried out. Tenders were obtained for a further 14 houses at Stilton but despite the support of the W.A.E.C. the Ministry of Health refused permission.

Housing Sites are available and layouts prepared for further houses at Yaxley (16), Alwalton (12), Orton Longueville (18), Stibbington (20), Glatton (10), Holme (4), Farcet (18) and Stilton (20).

(b) **Private.** 11 new houses were completed and occupied during the year.

Civil Licensing.

7 licences were granted for private houses and 164 licences for work in connection with dwelling houses and repairs to other buildings between the limits of £10—£100. The value of such work licensed was £10,743. This includes the provision of new accommodation e.g. temporary dwellings and conversion schemes, 10 families being housed by this method.

Water Supply.

Tenders were received and submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval for the laying of 11 miles of mains. 17 existing houses were provided with main supply during the year, 11 new houses, 15 meters and 30 building supplies were also connected to the mains.

Sewerage.

A public inquiry into the 5 Parishes Scheme was held in August by Mr. J. Gardner M.I.C.E., and evidence was collected and given to the Inspector. Dr. D. S. Buchanan, the County Medical Officer of Health, gave excellent support. The Minister later informed the Council that the scheme could proceed and a tender obtained.

Refuse Collection.

Unfortunately owing to the export situation the Dennis freighter did not arrive until 20th December and the district collection could not commence until 19th January, 1948.

Housing Survey.

Steady progress has been made during the year and 461 houses have been inspected and classified. 76 houses were repaired and improved as a result of informal action. The classified report of categories will be given upon completion of the survey.

Summary of Visits.

The following is a summary of visits carried out by the department during the year.

Inspections re Nuisances	.....	.....	.....	.....	189
„ „ Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
„ „ Housing Acts	.....	.....	.....	.....	522
„ „ Council and other houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	401
„ „ Salvage	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
„ „ Water Supply	.....	.....	.....	.....	484
„ „ Rats and Mice	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
„ „ Factories and Workshops (including Bakehouses)	.....	.....	.....	.....	93
„ „ Sewers and Works	.....	.....	.....	.....	533
„ „ New Housing Sites	.....	.....	.....	.....	84
„ „ New Buildings and Civil Licences	.....	.....	.....	.....	576
„ „ Caravans, &c.	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
„ „ New Drains	.....	.....	.....	.....	77
„ „ Refuse Collection	.....	.....	.....	.....	64
„ „ Interviews and Committees	.....	.....	.....	.....	172
Total					<hr/> 3286 <hr/>

Plans.

The following plans have been received :—

New Dwellings 31; Additions to Dwellings and Alterations 12; Garages 19; Greenhouses 3; Farm Buildings 18; Alterations to Schools 5; Temporary Buildings 13; Factories 3; Offices 2; Housing Layouts 9 for 126 houses; Temporary Houses 1; Transformers 2; Mineral Workings 7.

Each plan is considered and dealt with under Building Bye-Laws and Town Planning, this Council being the Interim Development Authority under the Town and Country Planning Acts and acting in conjunction with the Joint County Advisory Committee.

Total No. of Inspections re Nuisances	.....	189
„ „ „ Notices served	.....	120
(Informal	..... 114	Statutory 6)

Complaints received	.....	Total No. of	.....	44
Premises, houses, etc.	.....	No. inspected	.....	69
		Nuisances abated	.....	52
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse		No. inspected	.....	38
		Nuisances abated	.....	35
Animals improperly kept	.....	No. inspected	.....	2
		Nuisances abated	.....	2
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	.....	No. inspected	.....	38
		Nuisances abated	.....	32
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc.	.....	No. inspected	.....	25
		Nuisances abated	.....	21
House, or part thereof, overcrowded		No. inspected	.....	5
		Nuisances abated	.....	3
Smoke nuisances	.....	No. of observations	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Offensive accumulations	.....	No. inspected	.....	5
		Nuisances abated	.....	4
Other sanitary conditions	.....	No. inspected	.....	Nil
		Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Slaughter houses	.....	No. licensed or registered		Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)		No. established	.....	1
		No. of inspections	.....	6
Housing Act, 1936	.....	No. houses condemned		2
		No. closed	.....	Nil
		No. cleaned and limewashed		Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome		No. of	.....	Nil

Infectious Disease					Houses affected with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Erysipelas	12
					Houses inspected	12
					No. of inspections	20
					Houses disinfected	12
					Schools „	Nil
					Disinfectant used	Formalin
					Lots of clothing disinfected	Nil
					„ „ destroyed	Nil
Privy Middens					New provided	Nil
					No. repaired	3
					No. converted to pails	2
					No. converted to W.C's	3
Pail or Earth Closets					New provided	Nil
					No. converted to W.C's	9
					Cesspools cleaned	32
					New Cesspools	35
Water closets					New provided	40
					No. supplied with water	40
Ashbins					New provided	20
					Samples taken for analysis	4
					„ condemned	2
					Wells closed	1
					Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	Nil
					Public supply substituted for well or pond	17
					Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	6
Water supply					Waste pipes disconnected from drain	Nil
					No. houses closed	Nil
					„ „ made habitable	76
					„ „ demolished	3
Building Bye Laws adopted						15/7/39
Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.						Nil
Convictions						Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	M/c line No.	Number on Register	Number of		
(1)	(2)	(3)	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	31	19	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	18	42	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	23	32	—	—
TOTAL		72	93	5	—

2 - CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Cleanliness (S.I.)	4					
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9					
(a) insufficient		2	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	4	4	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11					
Other offences against Act	12					
TOTAL	60	6	5	—	5	—

Conclusion.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Council for their courtesy and consideration, to the Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk for their valued help during the year and to the staff for their loyal co-operation.

GEO. F. TAYLOR,

9th February, 1948.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1947.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	3
Measles	78	1	2	7	5	8	47	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a large increase in the number of notifications due to the accustomed biennial rise in the incidence of Measles.

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis was notified ; the source of this infection was not discovered.

The most satisfactory feature was the complete absence of Diphtheria.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

UNDER 5 YEARS		BETWEEN 5—15 YEARS.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
259	564	1003	984

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	1

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. PATTINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

